

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3154

TITLE: MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER

GRADE: S-21

DEFINITION:

Under direction, to provide casework service of an intensive nature as an integral part of the diagnostic study and treatment program of the Consultation and Evaluation Clinic; to plan and execute casework services, which involve a broad range of mental, emotional, and social adjustment problems, requiring a thorough analysis of such social factors as home and community conditions, personality problems and psychological forces which contribute to maladjustment; and to do related work as required.

TYPICAL TASKS:

Interviews clinic patients and parents to obtain social data relating to problems of the patients; prepares case histories of patients receiving treatment; participates in staff conferences with other members of the clinic staff to interpret information collected and to specify the possible effect of social factors in the patient's personality and adjustment problems; recommends admission, discharge, or referral of patients or clients to other agencies or treatment units; executes social treatment phase of total treatment program as determined by diagnostic staff; confers periodically with patients or other members of the household to interpret the bearing of social factors on the patient's mental and emotional condition; determines casework services appropriate for families presenting personal adjustment problems; explains the objectives and principles of psychiatric or medical social work to teachers, social workers, civic groups, and the public through talks and round-table discussions; prepares interpretive reports of the social adjustment problems and progress of cases referred to the clinic when requested by relatives, physicians, and referring agencies.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of the principles and techniques of psychiatric or medical social worker including casework methods and techniques;
Knowledge of the functions of social service agencies;
Knowledge of the fundamental types and problems of mental retardation and abnormal behavior;
Ability to plan and execute casework services;
Ability to develop social service resources in a community;
Ability to work effectively with other professional disciplines;
Ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with professional associations, civic groups and the general public.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Possession of a Master's degree from an accredited school of social work, and two years of social casework experience, including one year of experience as a psychiatric or medical social worker in a guidance clinic or mental institution, or mentally retarded clinic. Field placement in a psychiatric setting during graduate study may be substituted for the requirement that one year of the experience be specifically as a psychiatric or medical social worker.

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